

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A postage indicium fraud detection method for permitting the automated processing of void mail pieces bearing a unique indicium, comprising:

10 printing a first unique indicium on a mail piece or a label to be applied to a mail piece, which first unique indicium is adapted to be identified and sorted by automated mail handling equipment and which unique indicium identifies the mail piece as being a void mail piece.

15 2. The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 1, wherein the first unique indicium comprises a unique facing identification marking (FIM) different from FIM A, FIM B, and FIM C, which uniquely identifies the mail piece as being a void mail piece, and which unique facing identification marking is used by automated mail handling equipment to segregate void mail pieces bearing the unique facing identification marking from mail pieces not bearing the unique facing identification marking.

20 3. The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 1, wherein the first unique indicium comprises a unique postal numeric encoding technique barcode which is used by automated mail handling equipment to segregate void mail pieces bearing the unique postage numeric encoding technique barcode from mail pieces not bearing the unique postage numeric encoding technique barcode.

25 30 4. The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 1, wherein an additional indicium comprising a unique postal alpha numeric encoding technology barcode is printed onto the mail piece or label for the mail piece, which unique postal alpha numeric encoding technology barcode is used to at least one of
35 identify the sender of the void mail piece, the time of the void

1 mail handling, and collect statistics on attempts to mail void
mail pieces by the sender.

5 5. A postage indicium fraud detection method for
permitting the automated processing of void mail pieces bearing
a first unique indicium using existing automated mail handling
equipment, comprising:

10 printing a first unique indicium on a mail piece or a
label to be applied to a mail piece, which first unique indicium
is adapted to be identified and sorted by automated mail handling
equipment and which unique indicium identifies the mail piece as
being a void mail piece; and

15 processing the void mail piece bearing the first unique
indiciu with the automated mail handling equipment to identify
and segregate the void mail piece from other non-void mail
pieces.

20 6. The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 5,
wherein the first unique indicium comprises a unique facing
identification marking different from facing identification
markings (FIM) FIM A, FIM B, and FIM C.

25 7. The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 5,
wherein the first unique indicium comprises a unique postal
numeric encoding technique barcode which is used by automated
mail handling equipment to segregate void mail pieces bearing the
unique postal numeric encoding technique barcode from mail pieces
not bearing the unique postal numeric encoding technique barcode.

30 8. The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 5,
further comprising printing a second unique indicia, comprising
a postal alpha numeric encoding technology barcode which is used
by automated mail handling equipment to identify the sender of
35 the void mail piece, the time of the void mail handling, and

1 collect statistics on attempts to mail void mail pieces by the sender.

5 9. A postage indicium fraud detection method for permitting the automated processing and segregation of void mail pieces bearing a first unique indicium from non-void mail pieces not bearing the first unique indicium, comprising:

10 providing client software which permits a user to print information based indicia postage onto a mail piece or label for a mail piece;

having the user enter a valid delivery address, select a type of mail piece, mail class, attributes, and special services;

15 having the user verify and accept the address and any modifications thereto;

having the user select between printing a sample void information based indicia postage and a non-void information based postage indicia;

20 having a user print a sample information based postage indicia for void mail pieces and printing non-void information based postage indicia for non-void mail pieces; and

25 providing automated mail handling equipment which is adapted to segregate void information based postage indicia bearing mail pieces from non-void information based postage indicia bearing mail pieces.

30 10. The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 9, further comprising printing a unique postal alpha numeric encoding technology barcode onto the mail piece or label therefor which is used by automated mail handling equipment to at least one of identify the sender of the void mail piece, the time of the void mail handling, and collect statistics on attempts to mail void mail pieces by the sender.

1 11. A postage indicium fraud detection method for
permitting the automated processing, identification, and
segregation of void mail pieces bearing a first unique indicium,
5 comprising:

 providing automated mail handling equipment which is
adapted to sort mail based on indicia placed on mail pieces; and

 providing client software for printing a first unique
indiciu on a mail piece or a label to be applied to a mail
10 piece, which first unique indicium is adapted to be identified
and sorted by automated mail handling equipment and which first
unique indicium identifies the mail piece as being a void mail
piece.

15 12. The postage indicium fraud detection method of
claim 11, wherein the client software is adapted to generate a
unique postal alpha numeric encoding technology barcode, which
when printed on a mail piece or label therefor is used by
automated mail handling equipment to at least one of identify the
20 sender of the void mail piece, the time of the void mail
handling, and collect statistics on attempts to mail void mail
pieces by the sender.